

# Speech by FS at Salvation Army Charity Christmas Luncheon 2024 (English only) (with photo)

Following is the speech by the Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, at the Salvation Army Charity Christmas Luncheon 2024 today (December 3):

David (Chairperson of the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army, Dr David Li), Colonel Philip (Territorial Commander of the Salvation Army, Mr Philip Maxwell) and Colonel Deslea (Territorial President of Women's Ministries of the Salvation Army, Mrs Deslea Maxwell), soldiers of the Salvation Army, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

It is a pleasure to join you all at this year's Salvation Army Charity Christmas Luncheon. Today, we gather not only to celebrate the season of giving but also to enjoy the warmth of fellowship and the joy of sharing together. As we share this festive meal, let us remember that every bite we take is a reminder of the abundance we have and the importance of sharing that abundance with those in need.

This message is especially true in a world marked by persistent conflicts and humanitarian crises. They are vivid reminders that peace and safety cannot be taken for granted. They remind that we must not forget the simple virtue: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you".

Though we are living in troubled times, there is a beacon of hope. Across the globe, there are compassionate groups and individuals who care deeply about the well-being of others, who devote their time and resources, and sometimes even at the risk of their own safety, to bring hope and help to those who are less fortunate.

The Salvation Army is one of them.

You have come a long way. Since 1930, the Salvation Army has been dedicated to serving the needy in Hong Kong through a wide range of services, including education, healthcare, and housing. As one of the largest NGOs subvented by the Social Welfare Department, you operate over 100 social service units, schools and education centres across Hong Kong, serving individuals from all backgrounds and ages.

I'm pleased to note that your kindness extends beyond Hong Kong to the Mainland. In addition to running community development offices in Yunnan and Sichuan, you gave a helping hand, earlier this year, to those who suffered from earthquakes in Gansu and Qinghai, supporting their winter resettlement as well as post-disaster recovery and reconstruction.

Ladies and gentlemen, my heartfelt appreciation goes to the Salvation Army, and to all of you, for your kindness, generosity and dedication to serving those in need and making a difference in people's lives.

As Proverbs 11:25 reminds us, "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

At this festive season, let us share our joy, peace and blessings with our family, friends, colleagues and those around us. May our blessings be the blessings to others too.

Thank you, and may you have a blessed Christmas filled with joy, peace, love and abundance.

